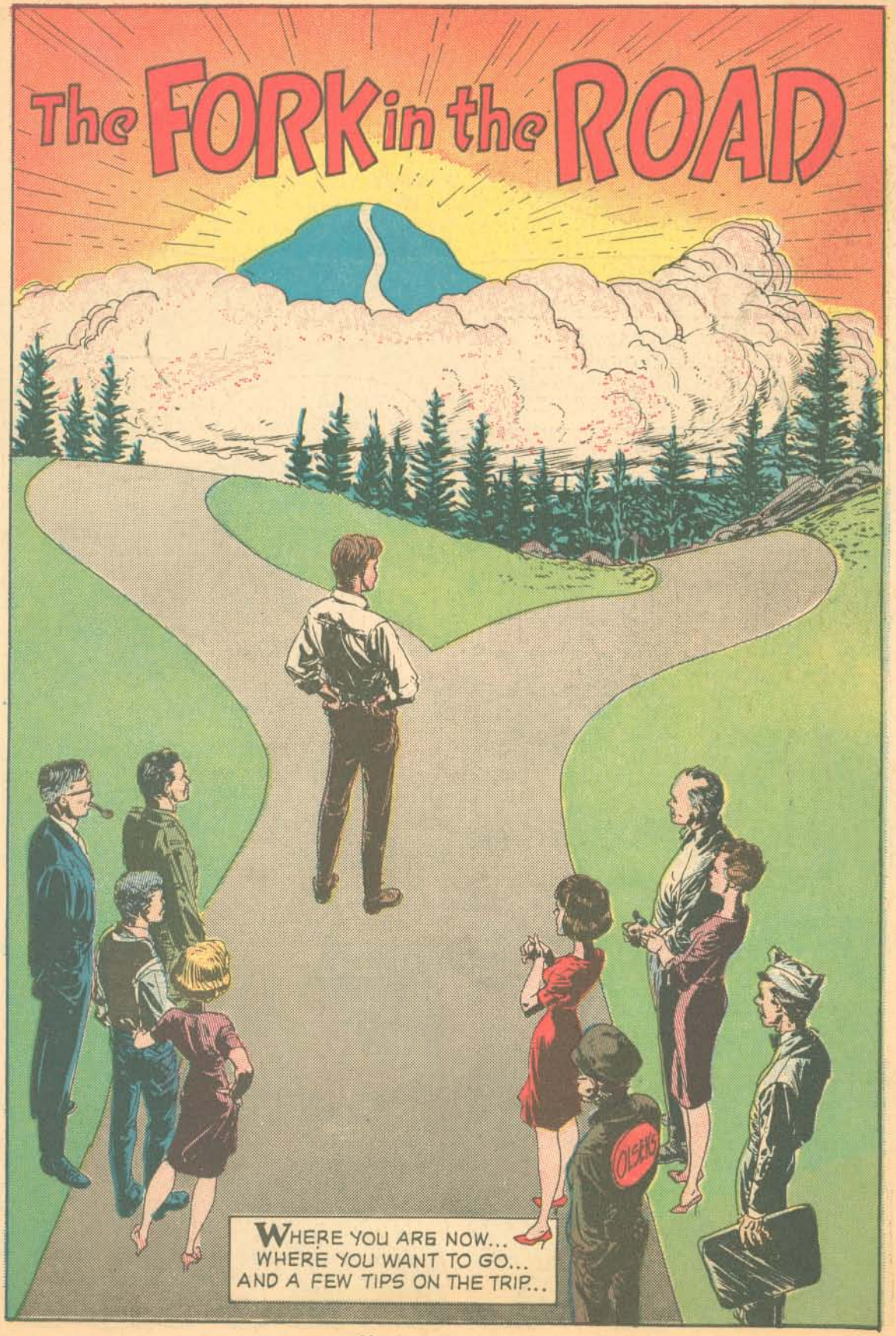
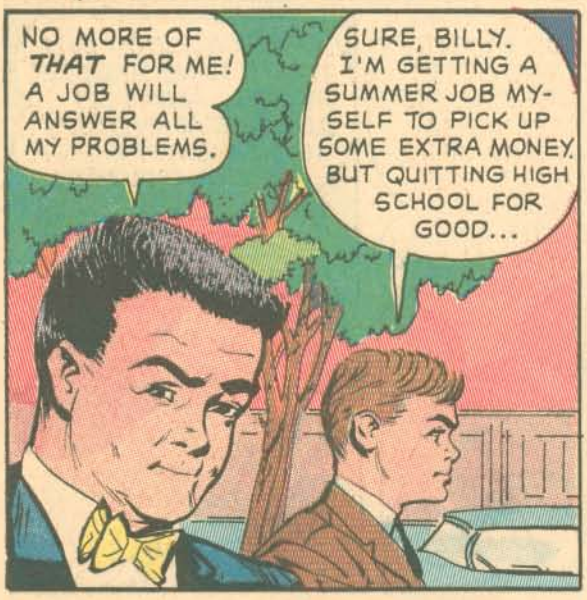
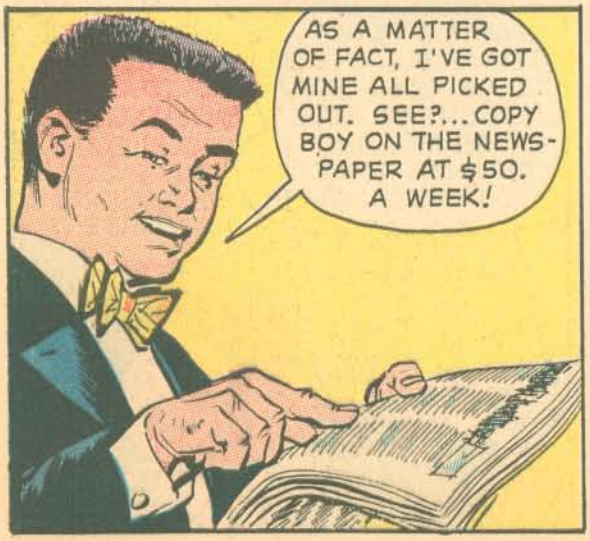

The FORK in the ROAD
OLSEN'S
WHERE YOU ARE NOW...
WHERE YOU WANT TO GO...
AND A FEW TIPS ON THE TRIP...

WE ALL COME TO THE "FORK IN THE ROAD" AT LEAST ONCE IN OUR LIFE. AND IT ISN'T ALWAYS EASY TO DECIDE WHICH ONE TO FOLLOW. OFTEN THE ROAD THAT SEEMS SMOOTHEST AT THE OUTSET ISN'T THE ONE THAT LEADS US WHERE WE WANT TO GO.
IT IS WITH THE THOUGHT THAT IT MAY HELP YOU TO MAKE THE PROPER DECISION WHEN YOU COME TO THAT "FORK IN THE ROAD" THAT THIS INSERT IS PUBLISHED.
FOR THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS, IT'S A CLIMAX OF WORTH-WHILE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT FOR TWO IN THE AUDIENCE...
COMMENCEMENT
TAKE A LOOK UP THERE, BILLY. THERE WE ARE, A YEAR FROM TODAY!
YOU MAYBE, CHUCK, BUT NOT ME! I HAVE SOME BIGGER PLANS!
I'M GONNA QUIT SCHOOL AND GET ME A JOB. I'LL BUY A CAR OF MY OWN... SOME SMOOTH CLOTHES... THE WORKS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF...
"I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BEING TURNED DOWN ON DATES, LOSING OUT TO GUYS WITH DOUGH!
2

BUT, BETTY, MAYBE I CAN GET MY DAD'S CAR. AND I'VE BEEN SAVING UP MY ALLOWANCE...
DON'T YOU EVER GET THE MESSAGE? BUD HAS HIS OWN CAR. AND HE TAKES A GIRL TO NICE PLACES WITH HIS OWN MONEY!


NO MORE OF THAT FOR ME! A JOB WILL ANSWER ALL MY PROBLEMS.
SURE, BILLY. I'M GETTING A SUMMER JOB MYSELF TO PICK UP SOME EXTRA MONEY. BUT QUITTING HIGH SCHOOL FOR GOOD...

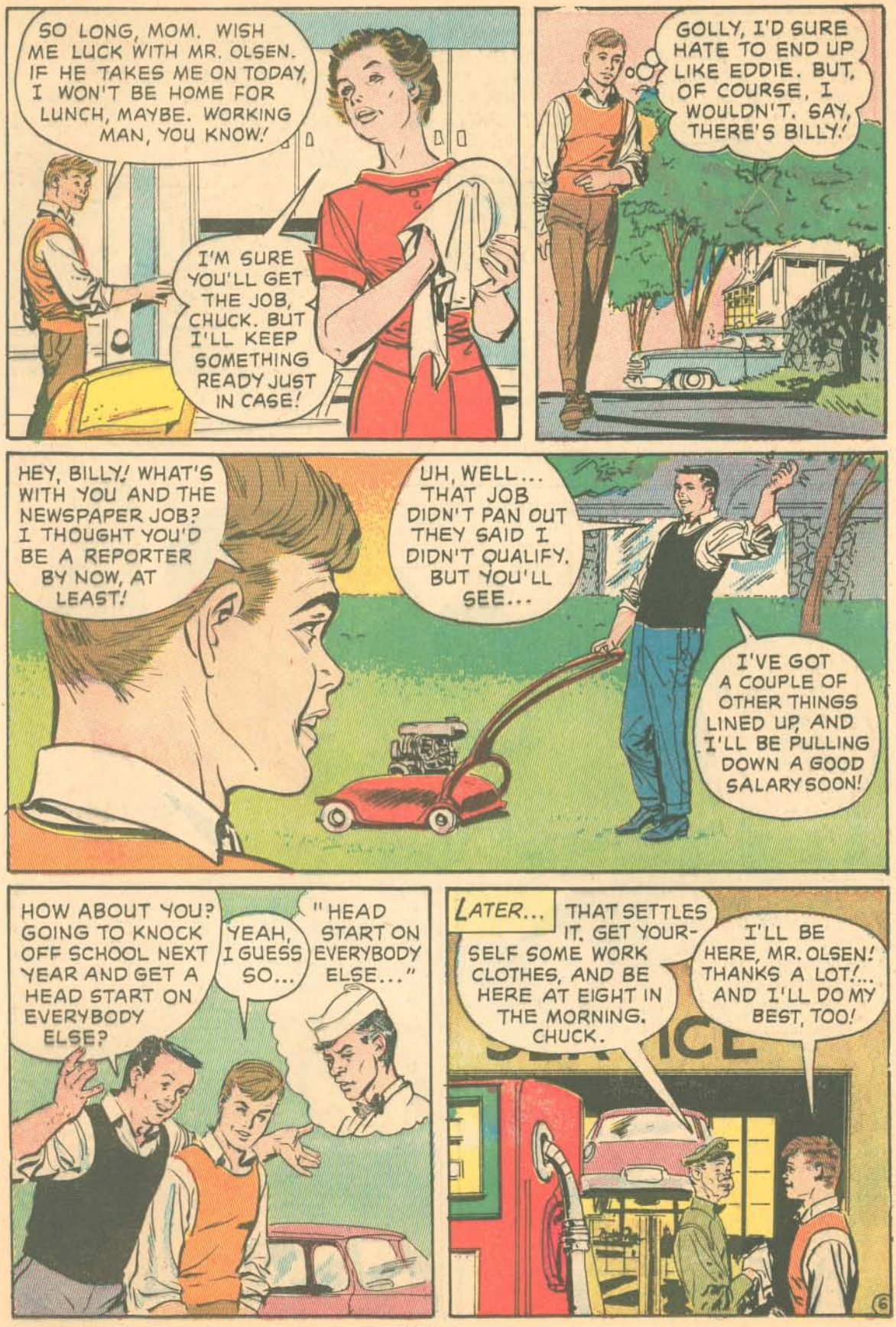


AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING! REPORTER... FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT... AND SOMEDAY, MAYBE, EDITOR!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND REAL GOOD! I JUST MIGHT BE WITH YOU. BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVE A DATE WITH LINDA. SEE YOU.

Advertisement

AND SHORTLY...
... AND AS BILLY SAYS, THERE ARE PLENTY OF JOBS AROUND. I BET I COULD GET ONE TOMORROW. THEN IN A YEAR OR SO...
BUT, CHUCK! NOT TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL!
I FIGURED THE SAME WAY, AT FIRST, LINDA. BUT THEN I FIGURED...
Y'SEE, I'VE GOT PLANS FOR YOU AND ME. AND THE SOONER I START MAKING A LIVING, THE SOONER WE CAN...
I DON'T WANT TO WAIT, EITHER CHUCK. BUT WE'VE MANY YEARS AHEAD OF US, AND I THINK WE SHOULD BOTH FINISH WITH ALL THE OTHER KIDS!
AFTER ALL, YOU MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE. AND JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY HAS AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!
PLEASE THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY. TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR FOLKS. THEN, WHATEVER YOU DECIDE WILL BE ALL RIGHT WITH ME!
YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. AT LEAST, I'LL KICK IT AROUND FOR A WHILE.
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT A SUMMER JOB LINED UP. MR. OLSEN SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE ME. AND YOU KNOW HOW I LIKE TO WORK ON CARS!
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE ALL SUMMER TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND. MEANWHILE, CAN YOUR BUDGET STAND ANOTHER HAMBURGER?
4

GOLD DIGGER! OKAY. EDDIE, PUT TWO MORE ON THE FIRE, WILL YOU?
COMING UP! AND, CHUCK...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TUNE IN ON YOU TWO, BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT. ABOUT THIS QUITTING SCHOOL...
LOOK AT ME. I QUIT AFTER TWO YEARS... FIGURED I'D GET A HEAD START ON EVERY-BODY ELSE. THREE YEARS LATER, I END UP JERKING SODAS!
" I'M STILL TRYING FOR A BETTER JOB, BUT..."
HOW MUCH EDUCATION HAVE YOU HAD?
LET'S SEE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.
OH, YOU DIDN'T GRADUATE? WELL...
NUTS!
BELIEVE ME, GET THAT DIPLOMA WHILE YOU CAN! MEANWHILE, I'LL GET THOSE 'BURGERS!
WELL, THAT'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT, ISN'T IT? HE COULD BE RIGHT, YOU KNOW!
Y-E-AH...HE COULD BE. STILL...
5


SO LONG, MOM. WISH ME LUCK WITH MR. OLSEN. IF HE TAKES ME ON TODAY, I WON'T BE HOME FOR LUNCH, MAYBE. WORKING MAN, YOU KNOW!
I'M SURE YOU'LL GET THE JOB, CHUCK. BUT I'LL KEEP SOMETHING READY JUST IN CASE!
GOLLY, I'D SURE HATE TO END UP LIKE EDDIE. BUT, OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T. SAY, THERE'S BILLY!
HEY, BILLY! WHAT'S WITH YOU AND THE NEWSPAPER JOB? I THOUGHT YOU'D BE A REPORTER BY NOW, AT LEAST!
UH, WELL... THAT JOB DIDN'T PAN OUT THEY SAID I DIDN'T QUALIFY. BUT YOU'LL SEE...
I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS LINED UP, AND I'LL BE PULLING DOWN A GOOD SALARY SOON!
HOW ABOUT YOU? GOING TO KNOCK OFF SCHOOL NEXT YEAR AND GET A HEAD START ON EVERYBODY ELSE?
YEAH, I GUESS SO...
"HEAD START ON EVERYBODY ELSE..."
LATER...
THAT SETTLES IT. GET YOURSELF SOME WORK CLOTHES, AND BE HERE AT EIGHT IN THE MORNING, CHUCK.
I'LL BE HERE, MR. OLSEN! THANKS A LOT!... AND I'LL DO MY BEST, TOO!
6

AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW...
THAT'LL BE $3.23, MR. MALLORY. AND THE OIL'S O.K.
JUST A MINUTE, MR. EDGE. LET ME GET THE WINDSHIELD.
YESSIR, YOUR RIGHT REAR TIRE WAS A LITTLE LOW.
WHEW! THIS HAS BEEN A BUSY DAY!
YOU'VE KEPT MOVING ALL RIGHT, CHUCK. AND YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB.
YEP... THIS SORT OF WORK SEEMS RIGHT DOWN YOUR ALLEY. YOU HAVE A NICE WAY WITH THE CUSTOMERS, TOO.
THANKS, MR. OLSEN. Y' KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...
IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT STARTED MAKING A LIVING ON MY OWN. WHAT WOULD YOU THINK ABOUT PUTTING ME ON PER-MANENTLY?
WHY, CHUCK, YOU'RE NOT THROUGH SCHOOL YET!
THE FACT IS... I'M NOT SO SURE I'M GOING TO FINISH.
W-E-L-L... I'LL THINK IT OVER, CHUCK. BUT I'M NOT SO SURE I'D BE DOING YOU ANY FAVOR.
CATCH THIS LAST CUSTOMER... AND WE'LL CHECK OUT. IT'S BEEN A LONG, LONG DAY!
7

HELLO, MR. CUMMINGS. CAN I FILL HER UP FOR YOU?
DO THAT, CHUCK. BY THE WAY, HOW'S YOUR SUMMER JOB COMING ALONG?
KIND OF BUSY TODAY... BUT I LIKE IT FINE. AS A MATTER OF FACT--
'EVENING, MR. CUMMINGS. HEAR ABOUT CHUCK'S PLANS FOR HIS FUTURE?
'EVENING, GEORGE. NO... BUT AS CHUCK'S CAREER GUIDANCE COUNSELOR I SHOULD BE CONSULTED, SHOULDN'T I?
OLSEN'S
YEP. CHUCK LIKES HIS JOB HERE SO WELL, HE WANTS TO KEEP IT PERMANENTLY.
WHAT! AND QUIT SCHOOL FOR GOOD?
THAT'S IT. SAY, CHUCK, MR. CUMMINGS WILL STEER YOU STRAIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU TALK YOUR IDEA OVER WITH HIM?
I WISH YOU WOULD, CHUCK. IF YOU'RE ABOUT THROUGH, I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT HOME AND WE CAN TALK ON THE WAY.
THANKS. ALL RIGHT IF I LEAVE NOW, MR. OLSEN?
SURE ENOUGH, CHUCK.

Advertisement

I HOPE YOU'LL DECIDE NOT TO QUIT SCHOOL... AND I'VE SOME FACTS AND FIGURES TO BACK ME UP.
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH NEITHER EXPERIENCE NOR A DIPLOMA SCORE HIGHEST IN UNEMPLOYMENT. AN EDUCATION IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN IT USED TO BE.
NOW A FIGURE. A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WILL EARN $50,000 MORE IN HIS LIFE-TIME THAN A NON-GRADUATE ON THE AVERAGE. THAT'S REAL MONEY!
$50,000! WOW! BUT I'M NOT PLANNING TO GO ON TO COLLEGE, SO IT SEEMS TO ME, I'LL BE A YEAR AHEAD IF I START NOW.
THAT'S A MISTAKE, CHUCK. JUST THINK OF THIS...
IF YOU QUIT NOW, YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO CATCH UP ON WHAT YOU MISSED. IT'S JUST TOO HARD LATER ON.
UH-HUH. I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. WELL, THANKS FOR THE LIFT, MR. CUMMINGS. ...AND THANKS FOR THE ADVICE. I'LL THINK IT OVER.
I HOPE SO. AND, CHUCK, REMEMBER ...DON'T BE HASTY!

WELL, CHUCK, HOW WAS THE FIRST DAY ON THE JOB?
THE JOB'S FINE, DAD. I LIKE IT A LOT.
IN FACT, I TALKED TO MR. OLSEN ABOUT QUITTING SCHOOL AND WORKING THERE FULL TIME.
WHAT!!
WELL, IT SEEMS TO MAKE SOME KIND OF SENSE. I CAN START EARNING A LIVING A WHOLE YEAR SOONER. I CAN BUY MY OWN CAR... MY OWN CLOTHES...
OLSEN'S
I COULD EVEN PAY YOU ROOM AND BOARD, MOM.
I CAN DO WITHOUT IT FOR ONE MORE YEAR! I'D BE VERY UPSET IF YOU QUIT SCHOOL, CHARLES!
DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY! A YEAR ISN'T A LONG TIME.
CHUCK, THIS IS A REALLY IMPORTANT DECISION. I HOPE YOU'LL THINK IT OVER VERY CAREFULLY.
10

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE SO UPSET, DAD. YOU DIDN'T FINISH HIGH SCHOOL.
NO, I DIDN'T, CHUCK. BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT THEN.
THERE WAS A DEPRESSION ON AND A LOT OF US JUST HAD TO QUIT SCHOOL AND GO TO WORK.
BUT DON'T THINK THERE HASN'T BEEN MANY A TIME WHEN I WISHED I HAD FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL! I'M SURE I'D BE FARTHER ALONG THAN I AM NOW!
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT, DAD. GEE, I DUNNO! IT'S JUST...
I'LL GET IT!
HI, BUDDY-BOY! I'VE A BIG SURPRISE FOR YOU. GUESS WHAT...
SO BROTHER JIM IS HOME ON LEAVE! I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM, LINDA-- AND THAT COOK-OUT SOUNDS GOOD, TOO! SEE YOU!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND DAD. WHY DIDN'T YOU STRAIGHTEN CHUCK OUT RIGHT AWAY?
HE'S ALMOST A MAN, MOTHER. CHUCK SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE UP HIS OWN MIND...RIGHT!

AND SHORTLY...
HEY!...LOOK WHO'S HERE!
HI, CHUCK! PULL UP A SPARERIB, AND BE ONE OF US!
I WILL! HI, EVERYBODY!
HEY! CATCH THAT!
YES! THAT WAS JIM'S SURPRISE. HE JUST GOT HIS COMMISSION, AND HE'S HOME ON LEAVE TO CELEBRATE!
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?
WOW!... CONGRATULATIONS, JIM!
I'VE GOT SOME NEWS, TOO, JIM. I'M QUITTING SCHOOL FOR A FULL-TIME JOB! CHUCK, TOO!
HUH... SURE!
12

YOU FELLOWS SURE?
SURE? SURE WE'RE SURE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JIM?
FIRST, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO QUIT SCHOOL? THAT'S A BIG DECISION! SECOND, IF YOU DO, ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN GET GOOD, STEADY JOBS?
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT!
I CAN GIVE YOU ONE REASON... REAL FAST! YOU HAVE YOUR MILITARY SERVICE COMING UP. FEW EMPLOYERS ARE GOING TO HIRE ANYONE FOR A REALLY GOOD JOB... WITH A FUTURE... WHEN HE FEARS HE'LL LOSE HIM SOON!
SAY... I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!
WHAT'S THE USE? YOU CAN'T WIN!
WE COULD ENLIST... AND GET THE SPECIAL KIND OF TRAINING THAT WILL HELP US GET THE KIND OF JOB WE WANT LATER!
NOT SO FAST! BY ENLISTING, YOU DO GET A BETTER CHOICE. BUT...
...TO GET THAT "SPECIAL TRAINING" YOU'VE GOT TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE!
HMM-M...
13

YOUR RECRUITING SERGEANT WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE REALLY IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES AVAILABLE TO MEN WHO ENLIST. BUT HE'LL ALSO TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE A DIPLOMA TO QUALIFY FOR THE TRAINING YOU WANT!
HE'LL ALSO TELL YOU ABOUT THE FIRST CLASS CAREER TRAINING THE ARMY MAKES AVAILABLE... REAL INSURANCE FOR MAKING A BETTER LIVING!
"YOU CAN TRAIN IN RADAR, POLICE WORK, MECHANICS, DIFFERENT FIELDS OF ELECTRONICS, AND LOTS OF OTHERS. BUT TO QUALIFY FOR THE BEST COURSES... THE ARMY STRONGLY ENCOURAGES ALL YOUNG MEN TO COMPLETE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. YOU NEED THAT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!
MP
OR YOU CAN STAY IN THE ARMY... MAKE A CAREER OF IT. I PLAN TO DO THAT. IT'S A FINE CAREER WITH A GOOD FUTURE!
A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND THE ADDITIONAL TRAINING THAT DIPLOMA MADE POSSIBLE PUT THIS ON MY SHOULDER. I'D NEVER HAVE MADE IT OTHERWISE.

COME ON, YOU THREE. STOP TALKING AND START EATING. THE RIBS ARE READY FOR YOU!
AND I'M READY FOR THE RIBS! C'MON, MEN!
WHAT JIM SAYS MAKES SENSE! I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS THING A LOT MORE THOUGHT.
MEBBE SO... HE PUTS A LOT OF WEIGHT ON THAT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!
YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET, CHUCK...
I GUESS SO. I'M THINKING... HARD!
LATER...
GEE, LINDA, THE BARBECUE WAS GREAT. THANKS... AND THANK JIM FOR ME, TOO.
THANK JIM? OH, I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
BOY, THAT JIM IS A GLOOM-PUSHER, ISN'T HE?
NOT FOR ME! HE MADE A LOT OF SENSE!

WHEN CHUCK RETURNS HOME...
HI, DAD. WAITIN' UP?
YEP. C'MON IN, BOY. FEEL UP TO HAVING A SERIOUS TALK?
DAD, I DON'T THINK WE NEED THAT TALK. I ALREADY HAD ONE WITH JIM COLLINS AND CHANGED MY MIND!
DID, HUH? GOOD FOR JIM!
A YEAR LATER...
WELL, DAD, HOW DO I LOOK?
NO PRETTIER, LINDA--BUT SMARTER SOMEHOW!
YOU, TOO, BETTY. A REAL SMART GIRL GRADUATE!
AND LOOK AT THOSE TWO "QUIT SCHOOL" BOYS!
GLAD YOU STUCK IT OUT, BILLY?
Y'KNOW I AM! THAT YEAR WASN'T SO LONG AFTER ALL!

THIS INSERT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE YOUTH OF AMERICA BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY RECRUITING SERVICE. FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES, OR FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING OTHER U.S. ARMY VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE LITERATURE, EDUCATORS AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS ARE INVITED TO WRITE:

EDUCATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER
MILITARY PERSONNEL
PROCUREMENT DIVISION
TAGO
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

NE 62-1213; 2M, U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 1961: 620709